

State Board of Medical Examiners.

ANNUAL TAX.

Section 2, chapter 81, statutes of 1917, providing for the levy of an annual registration fee of \$2.00 is now operative and every holder of any form of certificate issued under any of the acts for the regulation of the practice of medicine or any form of the healing art in California, is called upon to remit \$2.00 to the Board of Medical Examiners, Sacramento, California, prior to January 1, 1918, and annually thereafter. This section further provides for the automatic revocation of the certificate of one who fails to remit the \$2.00 fee within sixty days after January 1 of each year, however the certificate so cancelled can be restored by the payment of a fee of \$10.00 at a subsequent date and without requirement of an examination.

The office of the Board of Medical Examiners, although not required by statute so to do, has but recently mailed approximately 6,000 notices to licentiates calling attention to the amendment as above noted, and in a form letter urged the co-operation of the profession in an endeavor to perfect the office records in the instance of those licentiates whose records were destroyed by the fire which devastated San Francisco, in April, 1906, during which conflagration the records of the Board of Medical Examiners suffered "in extremis" while the records of the registration of all licentiates in the office of the county clerk of the City and County of San Francisco were destroyed.

The Board fortunately had access to a source of authentic information which made possible the restoration of a greater part of the records, however, there were many instances where exact dates were unobtainable or where typographical errors may have crept into the record.

Having in mind the necessity of authenticated data filed in the office, and realizing the ready response as well as cheerful assistance the profession always offers in matters of such vital importance, the office of the Board inclosed affidavit form 116 with the notice above mentioned.

True, the medical act provides no penalty for failure of the individual to make such affidavit, however, we know the profession would realize that no change of the office record could possibly be made unless substantiated by an affidavit. Our surmise is substantiated by results so far obtained, for out of approximately 1,000 responses to date, there has been but one written complaint filed in the office of the Board.

There will be no future necessity of forwarding affidavits with the next annual notice, in as much as we feel assured that the ready response to our first appeal will afford sufficient information.

The number of licentiates who have moved to other states without keeping the Board informed as to their address, is much larger than expected and the office force is actively engaged in endeavoring to locate all who are listed as "address unknown" that they may be informed of the amendments to the California Medical Practice act and by compliance therewith keep their certificate in good standing. Many instances have arisen where individuals licensed under a specific name, have had their name changed through marriage or other process at law, without due notice thereof being filed with the office of the Board, and as a consequence reference to the directory, or inquiry at the office of the Board, fails to elicit information that the individual in question is entitled to practice in as much as no record of the name, as changed, appears in our office. This

matter is of urgent importance to the specific licentiate who should return to the Board the certificate originally issued for proper endorsement and at the same time file the regular affidavit form, the change of name.

An unexpected problem has been thrust upon the legal department of the Board through the call to the colors of approximately 750 licentiates of California, some of whom even now may be "over seas," so located that mail cannot reach them for an extended period, with an added complication arising from conditions rendering impossible the forwarding of the \$2.00 fee to the office of the Board. No provision for exemption of the payment of the annual registration fee was provided when the law passed the legislature and a call of California medical licentiates to foreign shores through the exigencies of war was not anticipated. While it is true that the majority of the medical reserve corps enlisted from California are not as yet on foreign soil, yet they are scattered to the four winds and as a consequence difficult to reach by mail. This problem is in the hands of the legal department of the Board for solution.

The Board will mail a printed form receipt for the \$2.00 fee as fast as recorded, the printed form having been adopted as a rapid method of forwarding to the payee, an acknowledgment of the fee and further affording a carbon copy thereof for permanent filing in the office of the Board.

A new directory will be compiled on or about January 1, 1918, a copy of which will be forwarded to every licentiate paying the annual tax, and in as much as the directory heretofore published by the state medical society has been discontinued, we will endeavor to furnish in addition to the regular alphabetical arrangement of names, as much supplemental data as may be deemed of particular interest to the profession, or others who may feel the need of such a book for reference.

Supplements will be issued from time to time, noting therein the individuals licensed since the prior edition and, by filing the supplements with the original, all data in reference to licentiates will be immediately available.

FIRST SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT OF WAR COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS.

The Red Cross War Council reports on the work of the Red Cross during the almost six months which have elapsed since its appointment by the President. Included are details as to collections on account of the War Fund and appropriations made from the Fund, up to November 1.

The growth of Red Cross activities among the suffering civilian populations in the different allied countries is, up to this time, the outstanding feature of Red Cross work in this war. The magnitude of the work in France is particularly impressive.

Up to date approximately \$88,000,000 in cash has been collected for the War Fund. The demands, however, in Europe, are increasing with great rapidity and on the present basis of expenditure the \$100,000,000 War Fund cannot last much beyond spring.

During this period the War Council appropriated from the War Fund (including \$7,659,000 advanced to chapters for purchase of material and to be returned to the War Fund), \$10,969,216.60 for work in the United States, as contrasted with the appropriation of \$27,885,816.86 for work abroad, of which \$20,601,240.47 was for use in France. There have been appropriated from funds restricted to specific purposes \$1,417,625.74. As \$7,659,000 advanced by the War Council is to be returned to